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FCC PROPOSES EXTENDING THE 5-YEAR REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR THE NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking comment on whether to require telemarketers to honor registrations with the National Do-Not-Call Registry beyond the current five-year registration period. Under this proposal, telemarketers would be required to honor registrations indefinitely, until the registration is cancelled by the consumer or the telephone number is removed by the database administrator because it was disconnected or reassigned.

The National Do-Not-Call Registry was adopted in large part to make it easier and more efficient for consumers to prevent unwanted telemarketing calls. Since the opening of the National Do-Not-Call Registry was announced in June of 2003, over 145 million telephone numbers have been placed on the Registry. Under the current rules, registered numbers will begin to expire in June 2008 and may be dropped from the Registry, unless consumers take steps to re-register the numbers. The FCC proposes making registrations permanent to alleviate the inconvenience to consumers of having to re-register their preferences not to receive telemarketing calls, and to enhance consumer privacy protections.

Action by the Commission November 27, 2007, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking FCC 07-203. Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell. Separate statements issued by Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell.

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